

Eielson AFB, Alaska  
Home of the Iceman Team

# Arctic Sentry

Jan. 13, 2006  
Vol. 46, No. 2

"To Fight and Support the Fight - Any Time, Any Place"

## Around Eielson

*A quick look at what's going on*

### Today

► 7 p.m., **Saw 2** (R) shows at the base theater.

### Saturday

► 7 p.m., **Aeon Flux** (PG-13) shows at the base theater.

### Sunday

► 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Family Breakfast at the Yukon Club. Call 377-2635.

► 7 p.m., **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** (PG) shows at the base theater.

### Monday

► Daily specials 4-9 p.m. at Yukon Jakes. Delivery and take-out available. Call 377-2228.

### Thursday

► 7 p.m., **Aeon Flux** (PG-13) shows at the base theater.

► 4-8 p.m. A pasta bar takes place at Yukon Club.

### Friday

► 7 p.m., **In the Mix** (PG-13) shows at the base theater.

# SFS troops return home



Tech. Sgt. William Farrow  
**Tech. Sgt. Anthony Blum, 354th Security Forces Squadron, embraces his son and wife Sunday at the Joint mobility Complex after returning from a six month-long deployment.**

by Tech. Sgt. William Farrow  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A crowd of more than 40 people gathered Sunday at the Joint Mobility Complex to welcome the arrival of 17 354th Security Forces Squadron Airmen.

Returning from a long, 179-day deployment, the Airmen were greeted by their families and friends, co-workers and commanders after months of performing patrols and convoy escorts, helping with force protection and guarding detainees held at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

Asked about the specifics of her duties performed while at Bucca, an exhausted Airman 1st Class Rodshede Roberts simply replied, "It was a learning experience."

Following a tiring deployment and a 39-hour plane ride home to Alaska, Airman Roberts said she was "beat" and looking forward to her three-week reconstitution period.

However, the returning Airmen aren't the only ones looking forward to some well-deserved down time. The handful

of spouses present said they are looking forward to having their spouses relaxing around the house for three weeks.

"I can't wait to have him home," said Leslie Blum, wife of team lead Tech. Sgt. Anthony Blum. "We had great support from within the squadron and from the family support center and right after they deployed (in July) the kids and I seemed to be getting along fine."

However, she said after team member Senior Airman Mike Fletcher sustained multiple injuries in a vehicle accident while on patrol in October, she and her children, ages 13, 10 and 8, began to realize there was true danger for the Airmen assigned to Camp Bucca—a temporary internment facility holding 6,000 detainees awaiting legal proceedings under the new Iraqi government.

Prior to the Iceman team's deployment in July, Camp Bucca personnel experienced riots in January, April and March. Airmen and Soldiers prevented a mass escape when they discovered a 600-foot-long tunnel leading out of the detention facility.

See **SFS** Page 2

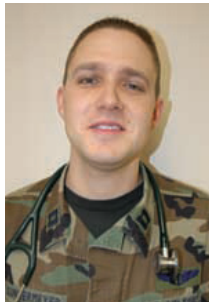
## Captain selected for promotion

The Icemen Team would like to congratulate Capt. Richard Sundermeyer, 354th Medical Operations Squadron Family Practice Physician, for his selection to major.

The Air Force selected 67 lieutenant colonels, 173 majors and 308 captains in the medical and dental corps for promotion.

The list of promotion selects is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's officer promotions homepage at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/off-prom](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/off-prom).

The board considered 1,310 officers for promotion.



**Capt. Richard Sundermeyer**

# Maintainers honored at ceremony

Compiled from staff reports  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Iceman maintainers were recognized Dec. 22 for the hard work they put in year-round to keep Eielson's jets flying.

Around 400 Icemen attended the annual 354th Fighter Wing Maintenance Awards Ceremony at the base theater, to honor the more than 100 nominees and award winners selected for their high levels of excellence, leadership, professionalism and technical expertise at the wing and command level.

### Eielson's top performers were:

#### "Best of the Best" award:

SrA Rebecca Beil, 354th MXS  
SMSgt Jeffrey Swing, 354th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Dees, 354th AMXS

#### CMSgt Barnes Award (crew chief):

SSgt Eric Lundberg, 354th AMXS

#### Top Weapons Load Crew:

SSgt Timothy Bridges, 354th AMXS

SrA Raul Agosto, 354th AMXS  
SrA Marques Rucker, 354th AMXS  
**PACAF Outstanding Maintenance Performer:**

SrA Amy Hale, 354th MXS  
SSgt Stephen Scofield, 354th MXS  
MSgt Brian Brewster, 354th AMXS  
W-10 David St. Laurent, 354th MXS

### PACAF Outstanding Maintenance Support Systems Performer:

SrA Gabriel Cox, 354th MOS  
TSgt David Pearson, 354th MOS  
MSgt Loretta Noles, 354th MOS  
**Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award: Maintenance:**

Field Grade Manager: Lt. Col. Mark Murphy, 354th MXS

Company Grade Manager: Capt. George Sherwood, 354th MOS

Supervisor Manager: SMSgt David Hafner, 354th AMXS

Technician Supervisor: TSgt Albert Beachy, 354th AMXS

354th AMXS

Technician: SrA Andrew Wetzsteon, 354th AMXS

Civilian Manager: Henry Ching, 354th MXS

Munitions Maintenance:

Company Grade Manager: Capt. Matthew

Larsen, 354th MXS

Supervisor Manager: MSgt Angela Wills, 354th MXS

Technician Supervisor: SSgt Robert Petty, 354th AMXS

Technician: SrA Marques Rucker, 354th AMXS

### General Lew Allen, Jr., Trophy:

Officer: Capt. Stephen Collen, 354th AMXS  
SNCO: MSgt James Barr, 354th AMXS

### Lance P. Sijan Award:

NCO: TSgt Freddie Dierenfield, 354th MXS  
SNCO: SMSgt Scott Smith, 354th AMXS

CGO: Capt. Aaron Cowley, 354th MXS

FGO: Lt. Col. Fredrick Plaumann, 354th MOS

# Gearing up for deployment

## Maintainers prepare aircraft, personnel

by 2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While pilots in the air often get the glory for a mission well done, maintenance personnel on the ground are just as deserving of it. Aircraft maintainers spend countless hours repairing, adjusting and improving aircraft to ensure proper functionality, reliability and safety for the pilots going into action.

As the 355th Fighter Squadron A-10s prepare to deploy, Iceman maintainers are wrapping up the hectic pre-deployment inspection routines they've been entrenched in for the last six months.

Maintainers have been working overtime at nose dock seven, the phase hangar site for much of the pre-deployment preparation. They've ensured periodic and preventive inspections are accomplished and performed unscheduled maintenance up to four months in advance to ensure the returning jets are mission ready.

"These guys have knocked out 21 phase inspections in the last six months," said Capt. Michael Merritt, 354th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron operations officer. "They've been busting their butts to get this job done."

The periodic phase inspections that aircraft undergo give maintainers the opportunity to take a detailed look at an aircraft and identify and prevent any future problems that may arise. Ten to 15 phase inspections are typical for a six-month period, but undermanned Iceman maintainers were up to the challenge, according to Captain Merritt.



Tech. Sgt. William Farrow  
**Staff Sgt. Kevin Strickland, 354th Maintenance Squadron phase inspection journeyman, inspects an A-10 cockpit for foreign object debris during a routine phase inspection Wednesday.**

He also said that with the high-ops tempo during the spin up, it would have been nearly impossible to process personnel without the help of the various wing agencies.

"They've really done an outstanding job ensuring our guys are ready to go," he said.

See **Deployment** Page 2

# DTS filing made easier

Compiled from staff reports  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Iceman Team members deploying to various locations around the globe can look forward to a faster, more efficient way of filing their travel vouchers soon.

The Defense Travel System, first fielded in 2001 and already in use at various DoD locations, offers ease of use, fast turnaround times and less paperwork to service members traveling on government business, said Tech. Sgt. Gerald Smith, 354th Comptroller Squadron customer support NCOIC.

"It's not just for filing your voucher, but for issuing orders, buying plane tickets and reserving lodging," he said. "It's like one-stop shopping. It's really easy to use."

The comptroller squadron is currently using DTSL, the limited form of the new system, and looks forward to upgrading to DTS full around March of this year.

Sergeant Smith said Icemen going temporary duty currently still have to file traditional paper travel vouchers until DTS full comes online.

On Dec. 24, 2003, DTS became the official DoD TDY travel system and was approved for fielding to the entire Defense Department. Among the benefits DTS brings to travelers, authorizing officials, managers and commanders, those most touted include: fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses;

See **DTS** Page 2

## ICEMEN DEPLOYED



Iraqi Freedom - 67  
Enduring Freedom - 201  
Other - 15  
Total = 285  
As of Jan.10

## WEEKEND WEATHER

### Today

High -15, Low -25  
Mostly Cloudy

Sunrise: 10:31 a.m.

Sunset: 3:29 p.m.



### Saturday

High -15, Low -20  
Mostly Cloudy

Sunrise: 10:29 a.m.

Sunset: 3:32 p.m.



### Sunday

High -15, Low -25  
Mostly Cloudy

Sunrise: 10:27 a.m.

Sunset: 3:35 p.m.





**SFS from Page 1**

“The reality of the danger of their duty really hit us pretty hard,” she explained.

Since this was Sergeant Blum’s first time to deploy for an extended period of time, Leslie said she relied on many support elements available to her and her family, but the support she received from one FSC agency was vital to her experience.

“Sergeant (Dan) Garncarz (family readiness NCO) did a great job in talking me through the whole deployment,” she said. “He explained how it’s normal for me to have certain feelings (of anxiety)

during certain points of the deployment and that what I was feeling and experiencing was normal—he helped me out a lot.”

Sergeant Garncarz said it’s his job to be able to provide that support and it’s the goal of the family readiness program to minimize the hardships experienced when a loved one deploys.

“We give them (spouses) a means to keep in contact with their loved ones and we strive to provide them with a support structure for spouses and their families while the military member is deployed,” he said.

**DTS from Page 1**

approvals and certifications tied directly to mission; a significant reduction in time spent administering travel; reduced paperwork; and the automated payment of government charge cards.

Sergeant Smith touts DTS’ fast turnaround time for travel vouchers as perhaps its greatest asset. “Filed in

**Maintainers from Page 1**

With their various readiness concerns attended to, the maintainers can concentrate on the task at hand - fixing aircraft.

Some jet problems originating on deployment find their way back to Eielson, said Staff Sgt. John Lopez, 354th AMXS aircraft electrical/environmental systems craftsman.

“Sand is one of the major problems we have to deal with,” he said. “There’s just so much of it in the air, and the jets are flying a lot more. We still find some sand in the jet from the last deployment sometimes.”

Meanwhile, members of the 354th Maintenance Squadron propulsion shop have been busy preparing A-10 engines for deployment.

The maintainers have been building spare TF34 engines and ensuring that those in use are up-to-date on inspections in case of unscheduled engine removals while deployed to ensure a faster turnaround time, said Senior Master Sgt. Marlon Galbadores, 354th MXS propulsion flight chief.

“The last thing those guys need is a scheduled engine change in the middle of mortar attacks,” he said. “That planning will prevent them from having to use one of the few spares they have on hand to replace an engine that would have to be sent back to Eielson for the repair.”

The propulsion troops have likewise put in long hours in preparation for the upcoming deployment, but none wavered

because of the importance of the mission, he added.

“The support that the flight provides the wing is definitely a team effort,” Sergeant Galbadores said. “As the saying goes, we provide thrust you can trust.”

Eielson’s maintainers continue to keep Iceman Hawgs flying, and those members deploying with the jets will carry on that excellence. Sergeant Lopez, who’s been deployed six times throughout his career, stands behind his work.

“We’ve worked really hard the last couple of months – probably had three days off the last three weeks,” he said. “But we’re getting good jets out. I feel good about sending these jets to war.”

**SFS troop yearns to return**

When the 17 Icemen walked through the doors of the Joint Mobility Center Sunday, the team was one Airman short.

Airman 1st Class Mike Fletcher’s deployment was cut short after sustaining multiple injuries in October. While on patrol as a turret gunner outside his base, the vehicle he was riding in flipped over, severed his left arm, split his nose and left him blind in one eye. He has been at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Md., undergoing surgeries and occupational and physical therapy.

In a telephone interview, Airman Fletcher said he wishes he could have been on the plane for the return trip to Eielson, but that he was pleased the rest of his team members all came home safe and healthy.

“I really miss them and I wish I could be with them right now,” Airman Fletcher said. Airman Fletcher is scheduled to return to Eielson in March.

DTS, it takes only one or two days to get paid,” he said. “A paper voucher typically takes at least three days to process.”

To learn more about the capabilities and functionalities of DTS, visit the Defense Travel System Travel Center Web site at [www.dtstravelcenter.dod.mil](http://www.dtstravelcenter.dod.mil).

**Safety first**

Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver

**Slip n’ slide**

**Staff Sgt. James Fulford, 354th Mission Support Group facility manager, uses a commercial strenth liquid de-icer on a set of steps outside of Amber Hall on Wednesday. Icemen are reminded to use caution when walking on ice. Icemen Outfitters sells ice cleats which attach to boots for extra traction. Protect your wingman and watch our for each other this weekend and throughout the rest of winter.**

**Force shaping affects lieutenants morale**

by 1st Lt. Kristen Duncan  
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Balance the officer and enlisted corps: that is the current need of the Air Force. As an officer and a second generation Airman, I’ve been told from day one, the ‘needs of the Air Force’ come first.

What happens when those needs mean the loss of my job - and not just my job, but a career of integrity, service and excellence? I vowed to protect the Constitution, to continue what my father and the greatest generation did in World War II. I am truly a patriot. I am an Airman.

With force shaping, Air Force leadership is undertaking the very difficult task of reducing its forces. In a briefing here Nov. 14, Brig. Gen. Kathleen Close, director, Installations and Mission Support, Air Force Materiel Command, said the leadership knows they could be losing a future commander, or a future general, but the Air Force can no longer support the imbalance of officers to enlisted troops. To support the mission, the service has to reduce its 2002 and 2003 lieutenants through volunteer or forced separations.

That equals more than 4,000 young, promising lieutenants. One thing is certain; the caliber of lieutenants is unparalleled. The question is: what does this do to our morale? Working on various projects, I have to wonder, will any of this mean anything if I’m force-shaped? Will I still be able to lead my troops? Is my morale going to take a nose dive? What if I work harder than I’ve ever worked to impress the heck out of every commander I’ve ever met? How do I keep focused on my job and my mission?

The answer is really quite simple. We should all work harder, not to impress for fear of losing our jobs, but because we are all officers who strive for excellence. We should continue to accomplish our jobs with the same unfailing performance and the same can-do attitude we’ve always had.

We should continue to work hard for our shops, our troops, our families and ourselves. In one of the hardest hit career fields, I’ve examined all my options and have come up with a few ideas: navigator training, Palace Chase and even switching services. Thankfully, the Air Force is giving us options. I’ve come to realize, though, that serving my country means serving its needs. The needs of the Air Force must always come first.

I hope to make a career of the Blue; but even if my active-duty career is cut short, it is for the mission of the Air Force and the United States military that I will serve and honorably discharge.

It could be my last act on active-duty service, but I am, and will always be, an Airman.

**Flu shots available**

The flu vaccine is now available at the 354th Medical Group for all active duty members, retirees and their family members. The immunization clinic is open 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. with the exception of closures every Thursday afternoon to support the allergy clinic. For more information, call 377-6659.

**DEPLOYMENT CORNER****Mail Call!**

**En route to their deployed location, an unexpected lay-over turned into a bit of good fortune for Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang, 354th Communication Squadron Photography NCO-IC, who met actor R. Lee Ermy at a book signing in the base exchange at Okinawa Air Base, Japan. After serving on active duty with the Marine Corps for 11 years. Ermy has appeared in more than 60 films including *Apocalypse Now* and *Full Metal Jacket* and hosts the show *Mail Call* on the *History Channel*. Sergeant Strang is part of a five-man visual information team deployed to Southwest Asia.**



Courtesy photo

**Pest management public notice**

Eielson’s pest management section is applying for a permit from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The purpose of the permit is to apply four types of mosquito control larvicides to selected water areas throughout the installation.

The pesticides that will be used are: Aquabac XT, EPA registration number 62637-1, active ingredient Bacillus thuringensis; Altosid Liquid Larvicide, EPA registration number 2724-392, active ingredient 5% Methoprene; Altosid Briquets, EPA registration number 2724-375, active ingredient 8.62% Methoprene; Summit Mosquito Dunks, registration number 6218-47, active ingredient 10.31 % Bacillus Thuringiensis; Bonide Mosquito Larvicide, registration number 4-195, 98 % Mineral Oil; and Altosid XR Extended Residual Briquets, EPA registration number 2724-421 ,active ingredient Methoprene 2.1%.

Application methods will be applied per the product labeling statement. The pesticide applications will take place May-Sept. 30 by Department of Defense certified pesticide applicators in

accordance with label directions and permit stipulations.

The State of Alaska, 18 AAC 90.520(2), requires this notice published. Anyone wishing to submit written comments to ADEC regarding this application may contact Thomas Hathaway Ph.D., Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, 500 South Alaska St., Palmer, AK ,99645. Fax comments to 907-745-8125 or call 907-745-3236 for more information. A copy of the application will be sent upon request.

Comment deadline is 30 days after publication of second notice on March 26.

The Department may schedule a public hearing for a permit application subject to this section if requested, or if the department finds that good cause exists, even if a hearing has not been requested under 18 AAC 15.060(a).

Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

354th Operation Support Squadron assistant tower chief’s name was incorrectly listed in the STEP promotion article.

**Arctic Sentry correction**

In the Jan. 6 Arctic Sentry issue, Master Sgt. Steve Brown,

**DWI CLOCK**

Maintained by the 354th Security Forces Squadron

Iceman Team goal is 60 days without a DWI.

**Days without a DWI:**

**11**

**Days until goal:**

**49**

Need a free ride home?  
**377-RIDE**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers gave 9 rides last weekend and have ‘saved’ **4,545** lives to date.

Icemen should remember the following three prong approach:  
**HAVE A PLAN;**  
**STICK TO THE PLAN,** if the plan fails  
**USE YOUR SAFETY NET.**

Klondike Cab, at 457-RIDE (7433) offers Icemen discounted rides back to base. AADD, at 377-RIDE offers free rides 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

**Arctic Sentry**

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**Best Metro Format Newspaper in PACAF 2003 & 2004****Editorial staff**

**Col. Dave Scott**  
*Commander, 354th Fighter Wing*

**Lt. Col. KellyAnn Thompson**  
*Chief, Public Affairs*

**Tech. Sgt. William Farrow**  
*NCOIC, Public Affairs*

**Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver**  
*Editor*



—COMMANDER’S—  
CORNER

Commander’s  
Hotline

377-6100

The Hotline is your opportunity to get your issues and comments directly to me so I can address them.

Before you call the hotline, however, I strongly encourage you to give the unit involved, your first sergeant or commander a shot at resolving the issue. The Iceman Team takes care of its own, but you should give these people the chance to help. Please leave the names and organizations of the people you’ve contacted who have been unable to satisfy your concern, and I will look into the problem.

Your confidentiality will be respected at all times. Thank you!

Col. Dave Scott 354th Fighter Wing commander	
AAFES	372-2139
CE customer service	377-2100
Chaplain	377-2130
Dining facility	377-2536
Family support center	377-2178
Finance	377-1851
Fraud, waste & abuse	377-2109
Housing management	377-2244
Inspector general	377-2109
Military personnel flight	377-2276
Legal	377-4114
Public affairs	377-2116
Services	377-2857
TRICARE	377-5235, Ext. 2

Newspaper  
deadlines

ARCTIC SENTRY deadlines are close of business Friday prior to the following Friday’s publication. E-mail submissions to [editor@eielson.af.mil](mailto:editor@eielson.af.mil) or to ARCTIC SENTRY on the global listing.

Story ideas?

THE ARCTIC SENTRY staff seeks to provide its customers with informative stories about the Iceman Team. If you have a story idea that you think would be interesting to the base population, send an e-mail to: [editor@eielson.af.mil](mailto:editor@eielson.af.mil).



by Gen. Paul Hester  
PACAF commander

Traditionally, a new year is a time to take stock of ourselves and make resolutions to change – to improve what we do and how we do it, to assess our priorities and to make adjustments to ensure we’re on the right flight path.

Our current Air Force Chief of Staff, General Moseley, has articulated his top three priorities for 2006 very clearly, and I’d like to give you my perspective on those priorities and what they mean to our Air Force as we enter into a new year.

General Moseley’s first priority is to win the War on Terrorism. At first glance, this global war may not seem like an air war, but think again. It is a war on all fronts – air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace – and *you* are a major asset. We are fighting a battle for the hearts and minds of literally billions of people around the world – many of them in our own backyard ... the Asia-Pacific region. We are fighting an enemy that detests the principles we hold most dear.

Today, more than ever, the United States needs people like you representing the good of our country around the globe. Whether we are providing airlift, collecting intelligence, delivering humanitarian aid, providing expedi-

tionary forces, or simply doing our jobs at home base, wearing the uniform and representing our great nation has never been more important. Do it proudly and honorably ... the eyes of the world are on you!

General Moseley’s second priority is to ensure we’re taking care of our Airmen. This means making sure we have *the right people with the right training in the right jobs*. Yes, some painful adjustments are necessary as we shape the force to the congressionally authorized numbers of officers and enlisted Airmen. We also have some overmanned career fields that will undergo some reductions while we increase our numbers in some of the most stressed AFSCs.

Again, we are involved in a long-term global war that will continue to tax our Airmen. We need to ensure we are organizing, training, and employing them as smartly as possible. Without a doubt, some of the changes are tough, but in the end, we will become a stronger and better Air Force.

General Moseley’s third priority is recapitalization and modernization. The Quadrennial Defense Review results will come out in February -- this will be the overarching directive of our future force structure. It likely won’t contain many specifics (like numbers of aircraft), but it will form the back-



“We are fighting a battle for the hearts and minds of literally billions of people around the world – many of them in our own backyard ... the Asia-Pacific region. ”

Lt. Gen. Paul Hester  
PACAF commander

bone of our future budgets and force structure. The average age of our fleet is 23.5 years – and flying old airplanes is expensive. We don’t necessarily need to replace our aircraft one-for-one, but we do need to modernize. The Air Force leadership, using the QDR as a starting point, will carefully prioritize capability needs to ensure we’re getting “the most bang for the buck” as we recapitalize and modernize our aging equipment.

In that regard, the Chief of Staff is thinking in terms of three portfolios: the Global Strike Task Force (fighters and bombers); Global Mobility (airlift and refueling); and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (including Space and Cyberspace).

PACAF will be busy in all these portfolios as we work to beddown new

C-17s, F-22s, and Global Hawks in the coming months and years. In fact, PACAF’s C-17 era is just around the corner – our first jet will be at Hickam Feb 8th!

Winning the War on Terrorism, Taking care of our Airmen, and Modernizing our Force. Important priorities, all of them – and necessary for our future success.

The Chief’s priorities are also PACAF’s priorities, and there is no better time than right now to begin the journey. From my perspective, the Chief’s priorities make a perfect list of New Year’s resolutions for the world’s greatest Air Force!

My wife, Lynda, and I wish all of you and your families nothing but the best for 2006.

Mahalo for all you do and Happy New Year!

The 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron...

Eielson’s Joint Ambassadors in Blue

Lt. Col. Russell Smith  
3rd Air Support Operations Squadron commander

Growing up in the Air Force as a fighter pilot kept my vision extremely narrow for many years. My concept of the Air Force was all about cool jets, fingertip formation, flying fast and low, pulling g’s, and dropping bombs on the range.

I never dreamed that one day I would live on an Army post, work with (and for) Army soldiers, and deploy to the front lines of our nation’s battles with an infantry battalion, clad in full battle-rattle, akin to a gladiator going to war in the middle of the Coliseum.

I suspect that my pre-3rd Air Support Operations Squadron picture of the Air Force is shared by many of you as well—perhaps this stove-pipe image is still prevalent among various Air Force technical fields across the board...aircraft maintainers, communications wizards, air traffic controllers, etc.

The ASOS is a silent and nearly invisible Air Force partner, often tucked away from Big Blue in the not-so friendly confines of the “field,” deployed to faraway battlefields, toiling away and getting dirty with our brothers in green.

If you’ve ever wondered just what the mission of the ASOS was or who exactly works there, then read on and I’ll attempt to broaden your horizons...be forewarned, though—you’re about to enter the land of Alphabet Soup, where acronyms bloom unencumbered, like flowers in a tropical rain forest.

Air Support Operations Squadrons are made up of primarily two entities, Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) and Combat Weather Teams (CWTs).

TACP consist of three groups: Air Liaison Officers (ALOs), Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) and their apprentices, affectionately known as ROMADs (radio operator, maintainer and driver).

The primary mission of the TACP is two-fold: first to liaison with the Army and second to control fixed wing platforms in the deadly art known as Close Air Support, or CAS.

“Liaison” has an innocuous ring to it, but in reality, liaison is one of the toughest chores that TACP wrestle with everyday.

Before you can begin an impact with an Army unit, especially an infantry unit, you must earn your stripes (figuratively, not literally); this will inevitably involve spending endless hours side-by-side with the Army, playing captivating games of “hurry up and wait” and “poke your eye out with a sharp stick” whilst executing the important but monotonous task of the military decision-making process (MDMP).

Perseverance pays off here—stripes cannot be purchased, but they can be earned through shared pain, whether it’s in the pouring rain, blistering heat, or the bone-chilling arctic tundra.

Mutual respect between service members becomes the offspring of that “never-say-die” attitude.

Once your initial hazing is complete, you can begin to perform the vital liaison role for the Army: integrating air and space power into their commander’s scheme of maneuver.

In other words, it’s like giving a football coach a secret weapon which can protect his players while at the same time help him defeat his opponent.

Army soldiers can be overbearing and clannish; however, the right blend

“Mutual respect between service members becomes the offspring of that ‘never-say-die’ attitude.”

Lt. Col. Russell Smith  
3rd Air Support Operations Squadron commander

of forcefulness and fortitude will soon bear fruit on the playing field. ASOSs give their enlisted JTAC members tremendous responsibility—their task is to liaison directly with a battalion commander (Lt. Col., commanding approximately 700 troops) and his planning staff.

Given the Army’s penchant on rank consciousness, this is no small order. Providing terminal attack control for CAS aircraft is the second core competency for the -JTAC and his trusty ROMAD colleague.

Believe me, there is nothing more compelling to an Army commander than having a first-hand view of CAS aircraft reigning death and destruction on the enemy while Army troops stay safe under the protective air coverage provided by the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

ALOs, meanwhile, provide critical liaison functions at brigade levels (Air Force wing equivalent, but with approximately 3,000 troops) and above.

Once again, the scales are tipped with the Army holding at least a one-rank advantage over the Air Force liaison.

For instance, I deal directly with an O-6 full bird Army colonel; not a job for the faint-hearted, trust me on that one!

Let’s not forget about our CWT—

my forecasters provide critical mission execution forecasts (MEFs) to rotary aviation (choppers) pilots and Army ground commanders. Weather forecasts are an essential part of the each commander’s METT-T (mission, enemy, weather, terrain, troops, timing) wargaming analysis, whereby they select the optimum course of action (COA) for battle.

Air Support Operations Squadrons are always co-located with their Army customer on Army Posts ...with living conditions typically a shade below Air Force standards.

That being said, I can honestly say that camaraderie among soldiers and their families is just as strong as on any Air Force base I’ve ever lived on.

As the Army continues to complete its transformation into a light, agile and responsive fighting force, the demand for CAS and TACP integration will continue to rise.

While our Air Force is expected to draw down its overall force requirements, you can rest assured that TACP functions will continue to be in demand and will increase dramatically to meet the Army’s transformational requirements.

Do you have what it takes to become a TACP or CWT member? Please feel free to call our squadron or come visit us if you’d like to learn more about the “other” Air Force.



SERVICES PROGRAMS

**Editor’s Note:** For a list of other classes and programs call 377-3268 or surf to [www.eielsonservices.com](http://www.eielsonservices.com). Please RSVP for classes.

Programs

**Texas Hold ‘em tournaments,** 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays at the Yukon Club. Call 377-1075.  
**Deployed bowling for family members,** 5-7 p.m., Fridays at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.  
**Trap shoot,** 5-9 p.m., Tuesdays at the skeet and trap range. Instruction, ammunition and loaner guns are available. Call 377-5338.  
**FitFactor weekly events,** 2:30 p.m., Fridays at the youth center.  
**Monday Night Football,** 4-9 p.m., Mondays at Yukon Jake’s.  
**Thrifty Tuesdays** 5-8 p.m. \$1 specials on bowling and food at Arctic Nite Lanes.  
**Skeet league,** log 50 targets per week. Any adult, active duty, family member, civilian or retiree may join the league. Call 377-5338.  
**Chess club,** 5:30 p.m., Thursdays at the community center. Call 377-2642.  
**Spades Tournament,** 8 p.m. Fridays, at the Yukon Club.  
**Bowling instruction** available at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.



Seafood Extravaganza

A Seafood Extravaganza is 5-9 p.m. Saturday at the Yukon Club. Alaskan King Crab legs and Jumbo Shrimp will be served. Cost is \$34. There are discounts for club members and youth. Children age 5 and younger are free. The full club menu will be available through Yukon Jake’s. Call 377-5219.

Birch Lake, Valdez

Birch Lake and Valdez recreation site reservations for summer can be made at outdoor recreation for active duty members at Eielson. Reservations must be made in person at Iceman Falls Lodge. For more information, call 377-1328.



Friday

❖Get discount tickets at Information, Tickets and Tours for Ice Dogs Hockey in Fairbanks. Discount movie tickets are also available. Call 377-4880.

Saturday

A Health and Fitness Expo begins 9:30 a.m. to noon at the fitness center. Area experts will offer a variety of services and key information to include body composition and micro-fit assessments, mini-aerobics sessions, FitLinxx registration and more. Participants will also be entered to win an overnight stay at Chena

Hot Springs. Call 377-1925.

Monday

A Holiday Bowling Special takes place 1-5p.m. at Arctic Nite Lanes. Bowlers can choose from several specials including the “Basket Bowl” special featuring three games of bowling, shoe rental and a basket meal for \$10 or bowl for the discounted price of \$1.50 per game. Call 377-1129.

Tuesday

A free Tops In Blue show takes place 7 p.m. at the base theater. The community center will close

at 5 p.m. both nights in preparation for the show. Volunteers are needed. Call 377-2642.

Thursday

A snowmachine trip begins with a safety briefing at 5 p.m. at Iceman Falls lodge. Reservations required. Call 377-1328.

Jan. 20

Kids Night Out takes place 6:30-11 p.m. at the youth center. KNO features organized and self-directed activities for youth center members in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Call 377-3194.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wrestling club

An Eielson Raven Wrestling club meeting and practice for adults and children 5-years and older is 6 p.m. Monday at the Ben Eielson High School Wrestling Room. Call Master Sgt. Ebby Bryce at 372-3393 or 377-1240 or email [scrooge@gci.net](mailto:scrooge@gci.net).

Ben Eielson parents

A parent’s team meeting, for parents of seniors graduating from Ben Eielson High School, is 11 a.m. Saturday at the High School Library.

Parents welcomed to school

A Parents in School Day is Wednesday at Ben Eielson Junior/Senior High School. Parents may attend one or more classes with their children. No reservations are needed.

Martin Luther King celebration

A Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Observance, hosted by the African-American Heritage Comittee, is 2 p.m. Wednesday at the base chapel. All Icemen are welcome to attend.

Anderson Elementary PTO Meeting

An Anderson Elementary Parent Teacher Organization meeting is

5 p.m. Tuesday at the multi-purpose room at the school. Fundraising will be discussed, including why specific types of fundraisers are chosen, as well as how the money is used. Childcare will be provided. Please email [andersonpto@yahoo.com](mailto:andersonpto@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Birthday meal

A birthday meal for Icemen celebrating their birthday in December or January is 5-6 p.m. Thursday at the Two Seasons Dining Facility. Reservations can be made through unit first sergeants. Call 377-3269.

Expired decals

Security forces will issue verbal reminders for personnel with expired DD Form 2219s (Registered Vehicle Expiration) decals to have them renewed at pass and registration. Beginning February, security forces will issue Air Force entry forms for access on to the base. Call 377-1033.

Thrift Shop hours

The base Thrift Shop will re-open Tuesday. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are accepted until one hour before closing. Donations are tax deductible. All proceeds from the Thrift Shop go toward welfare requests and scholarships. Volunteers are needed. Call Cynthia Sullivan at 377-5274.

MOPS Meetings

A Mothers of Preschoolers meeting is 6-8 p.m. Jan. 26 at the community center. Call Kelly Straker at 372-2691.

Snow, ice removal

Icemen are reminded to remove snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways and fire hydrants within 24-hours of snowfall. For more information, call 377-2244.

Chess club hours

The chess club now plays 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesdays and 5:30-8 p.m. Thursdays at the community center. Call 377-2642.

Mobility requirement

All mobility qualified personnel are required to complete Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance training online at <https://golearn.csd.disa.mil/>. Personnel must have a training certificate for EOR training before they can be scheduled for further training. For more information, call 377-1125.

Officer’s tuition change

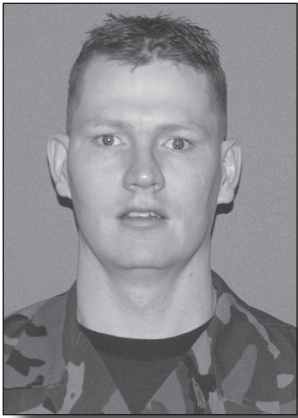
Officers applying for tuition assistance are required to apply online through the AFVEC site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/>. Call 377-4193.



HALL OF FAME



The Hall of Fame is a program for group commanders to recognize Airmen for excellent job performance.



**Staff Sgt. Sylvin Carter**  
*Utilities Craftsman*  
354th CES  
Lamar, Colo.

“During off-duty time, Staff Sgt. Carter fixed an auxiliary check valve that had malfunctioned. His superior knowledge and precise response allowed the system to be reset quickly, protecting a mission essential category A resource.”



**Robin Brown**  
*Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant*  
354th MDOS  
Bristol, Tenn.

“Her phenomenal work ethic and attitude is consistently recognized by her peers and leadership and noted continually by customers on patient surveys. She volunteers 45 hours weekly as an integral member of the dental flight while completing the six month Red Cross program. Robin quickly mastered assisting skills and works efficiently in a dental care optimization schedule managing two treatment rooms, doubling her providers patient care capacity ”



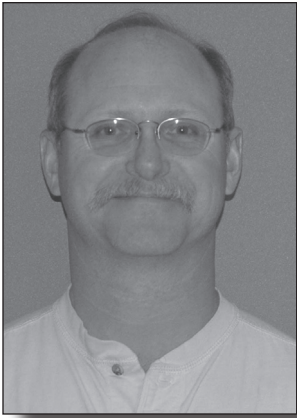
**Staff Sgt. Curtis Huffman**  
*NCOIC Security Forces Armory*  
354th SFS  
Papillion, Neb.

“He is a hard charger. He was selected as NCOIC, security forces Armory and immediately proved his worth. He installed weapons modification kits for 45 M-4 rifles, enhancing the unit’s combat equipment capabilities. In addition, he rectified several weapons storage discrepancies. He immediately re-validated procedures and initiated a program with combat arms to provide unscheduled accountability inspections. He also developed a more efficient, easier way to reference weapons qualification roster for both security forces members and wing augmentees. He is an invaluable contributoer to the Iceman Security Forces team. ”



**Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hazard**  
*Munitions Quality Assurance*  
354th MXG  
South Glens Falls, N.Y.

“He performs impeccably in the assessment of safety practices, equipment condition, personnel proficiency and quality of maintenance performance within the 354th MXS Munitions Flight which is comprised of 154 personnel. He also monitors work practices to ensure adherence to technical data, command and local directives to provide managers with an overview of positive and deficient areas through inspection reports and suggests corrective actions. His positive attitude and motivation help to ensure that munitions operations are done safely..”



**Robert Wurster**  
*AGE mechanic*  
354th MXS  
Wixom, Mich.

“He excels in providing the 354th MXS Aerospace Ground Equipment flight with expert technical knowledge. Recently, he repaired a generator load bank that had been out of service for over six months. His dedication and steady work ethic ensured the flight was able to meet mission requirements. It is an honor to have Mr. Wurster on the Iceman team.”



# Chief bowls best game of his life

by **Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver**  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Scratch, strike and turkey might not mean anything to the average person, but for one bowling advocate these bowling terms defined the best three-game bowling set of his life.

Chief Master Sgt. Saniford Andree, 354th Operations Group First Sergeant, recently bowled an 834 scratch series, not only recording the best score in the history of Arctic Nite Lanes, but also the fourth best score in the region since 1967.

A scratch series score is the total

score of three games without a handicap. A perfect scratch score is 900. Chief Andree was 66 points from reaching that perfect score.

“I was in the zone,” Chief Andree said. “There was no pressure – I was just having fun.”

The chief backed up his confidence with more than 20 years of bowling experience. Growing up in Aberdeen, S.D., the chief fondly remembers bowling in leagues since he was eight years old.

“I’ve always bowled,” he said. “Both my parents loved to bowl and I learned the sport from them. It prob-

ably helped that my mom was state league champion at the time.”

Arctic Nite Lanes assistant manager Mike Reardean couldn’t believe the Chief’s score.

“I was going through past score sheets and records when I came across his score. I couldn’t believe it. No one had mentioned anything about his high score until then.”

We were jubilated that someone shot a score like that, he added. It’s a huge accomplishment.

“Over the course of my tenure and more than five million lines of bowling here, I’ve personally never seen a

score like that,” Kent Johnson, Arctic Nite manager said.

Anyone who bowls a perfect game or scores a scratch series of 800 or more is rewarded by the United States Bowling Congress with a watch, a ring or a plaque as a memento.

“I wanted a ring, but they didn’t have my ring size, so I got a watch,” the chief said. “Looks like I’ll have to bowl a 300 to get my ring.”

Chief Andree, his wife Jennifer and their two friends, Chief Master Sgt. Bob Witowic, 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and his wife Kathy, joined the 168th Air National Guard

League in September as a way to avoid the winter blues.

“Our goal was to stay active during the winter months,” Chief Andree said. “Bowling provides a great opportunity to get out of the house with my wife and participate in something we both enjoy. The league members are fun to bowl with and the staff always provides a great service in their top-notch facility, which combined, creates quite an enjoyable atmosphere.”

There are eight different bowling leagues which meet once a week. For more information about the bowling leagues, call 377-1129.

# Iceman reaches 300,000 points in FitLinxx

by **Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver**  
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Exercising to stay healthy and to keep in shape, Bob Binder, 354th Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Ground Equipment Operator, recently lifted, stepped and ran his way past 300,000 points on FitLinxx, a computerized system that tracks an individual’s fitness progress over time.

Motivated by medical issues, the 61 year old began working out every day at 5:30 a.m. at the fitness center.

“I needed a way to stay in shape to keep myself healthy,” Mr. Binder said. “What better way than to start off your day at the gym? It gives me extra energy to get through my day.”

Driving trucks and moving aircraft equipment can be physically exhausting without taking into consideration Mr. Binder’s age.

“I couldn’t perform my job if I didn’t have a strict workout regimen to help keep me physically strong,” he said. “I take spin classes Tuesdays and Thursdays, Pilates on Friday and various elliptical and free-weights training during the rest of the week. I log everything I do, including activities around my house, into FitLinxx.”

FitLinxx, which tracks various activities ranging from running and lifting weights to shoveling your driveway and gardening, not only offers

individual accountability, but also offers various awards for participants. Awards are based on point levels and prizes vary at each level.

“Mr. Binder’s dedication to his workout is phenomenal,” said Doug Hill, 354th Services Squadron Fitness Director. “I admire that despite his age he is so dedicated to staying in shape.”

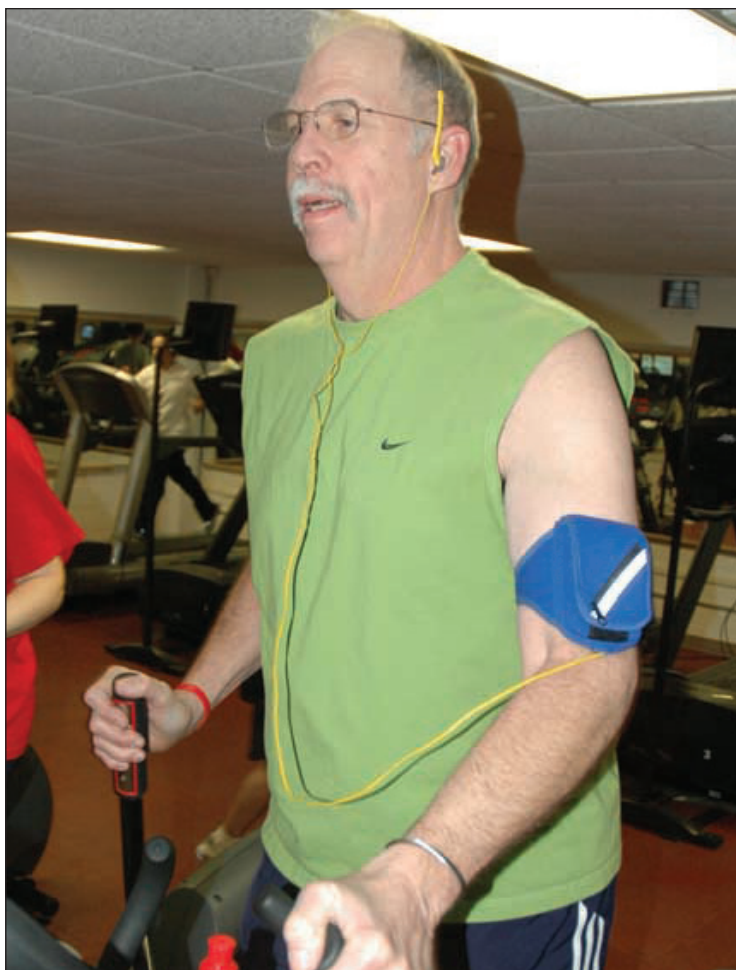
300,000 FitLinxx points isn’t stopping Mr. Binder either. His next goal is 500,000 points before his March 16 birthday.

“I set high goals for myself so that I continue to push and make myself better. I don’t want to become complacent, not during my workouts and especially not at work.”

People who need extra motivation should try to find a workout partner, he added. “The fitness center staff has been a tremendous help to keep me on track.”

“Mr. Binder is an inspiration to us all, both young and old,” said Master Sgt. Scott Mahar, 354th MXS Dispatch Support Section Chief. “He has an upbeat attitude from the time he comes through the door in the morning until he walks out the door in the afternoon. His fitness program has clearly provided him with the stamina needed for uninterrupted AGE support of aircraft maintenance operations.”

For more information on FitLinxx, go to [www.FitLinxx.com](http://www.FitLinxx.com) or call the fitness center at 377-1925.



**Bob Binder, 354th Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Ground Equipment Operator, works out on an elliptical machine Wednesday morning at the fitness center. Mr. Binder, who goes to the fitness center five days a week, recently reached more than 300,000 points on FitLinxx.**

